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## Board of Directors Board Minutes October 21, 2014

**Board Members** Scott Reynolds, Chair, Directors John Lang, Mike McGowan (arrived at 7:10), Bob Moore, Carol Moorehead, Jenni Newby, Ron Radabaugh, and Terry Rahmsdorff.

**HDES Staff** John Rexford, Superintendent, Paul Andrews, Deputy Superintendent, Jayel Hayden, Human Resources Director, Greg Munn, Director of Fiscal Services, Diane Tipton, Director of Early Childhood Programs and Shelley Knutz, Executive Assistant

**Call to Order** Scott Reynolds called the October 21, 2014 meeting to order at 5:35 pm

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### REPORTS

#### **Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) Update**

Early Intervention serves children birth to age 3 who qualify for special education services. Early Childhood Special Education serves children from ages 3-5 who qualify for special education services. Diane shared the current organizational chart for the State Board of Education and the Early Learning Council, EI/ECSE is under the State Board of Education. There was discussion of how EI/ECSE really falls under the State Board of Education and the Early Learning Council. There are 75 employees who support EI/ECSE, and as of June 2014 count was 635 children. As of October 2014, there are 454 children being served. Across the tri-county region, the primary source of referrals to the program are physicians, and then HeadStart. Progress is measured by positive social-emotional skills, acquisition and use of knowledge and skills, and use of appropriate behaviors to meet the needs.

Early Intervention results have shown 90.5% of children making substantial growth in social/emotional skills. The state target is 81.4%, and we are the highest in the state on the measure. Early Childhood Special Education results show 87.1% of the children are making substantial growth in social/emotional skills. 77.9% are making substantial growth in improved acquisition and use of knowledge, and 73.1% in improved use of appropriate behaviors. High Desert ESD has the highest outcome percentages in the state for all three outcomes. One third of the children were functioning within age expectations and ready for kindergarten when they exited the program.

Focus this school year will be to improve outcomes B and C in the area of Early Intervention and increase the percentage of children functioning within age expectations when they go to kindergarten. Diane attributes much of the success to making sure all children participate in a 3 day preschool program the year before they exit to kindergarten. She noted that every dollar spent in early childhood education, saves \$13 in services over time.

Bob Moore asked what a 15% increase in funding would provide for children. Diane said it would provide more services in birth to 3 to get the children closer to the national standards.

## Goals & Outcomes 2013-14

Paul explained that this is the time of year we report back to the Board how we have done with our goals and outcomes from the previous year. Of the 74 goals that were set by programs, 52 were met. Paul believes a 70% achievement rate is good because it shows that programs are setting their goals high and are very serious about the outcomes. He reviewed the highlights with the Board including Autism Spectrum Disorder, Behavior Intervention Center, Deschutes Children's Forest, Family Access Network, and Orthopedic Impairment. One year after exiting the Behavior Intervention Center, students showed an 85% improvement in targeted behavior. First Step to Success had 80% of the students who completed the program increased in the adaptive behavior rating and in academic engagement, while 90% reported an increase in friends. Migrant Education summer school students showed an 81% increase in reading and an 83% increase in math.

Paul mentioned how the newer programs are transitioning from tracking baseline outputs to goals and outcomes. High Desert ESD is very proud of this work that was started several years ago. We are a model agency to other ESDs when it comes to setting goals and tracking outcomes. Jayel said our work with the outcome measurements have been so helpful to staff for aligning their goals with their evaluations under the new SB290 evaluation requirements.

Scott asked about the longitudinal data that has been collected over time. Paul said that several programs have been tracking the same goals long enough to produce longitudinal data. However, there are some goals that have been changed over the years, so we don't have longitudinal data.

## Fiscal Report

Greg Munn presented the Finance Report for October 2014

- Unaudited revenue year-to-date through September is \$503,000 which is 2.5% more than the same time period last year. This is due to higher State School Fund revenue.
- Wrapping up the 2013-14 audit. The auditors will present the audit to the Board in November.
- The PERS Board announced the rates for the next biennium 2015-17, and the numbers are great news for the ESD. The new rates will go into effect July 1, 2015 and will be part of our budget planning for next year. Overall this will mean a reduction in our PERS expense for the next two years of approximately \$400,000 per year.
- The entire reduction is due to market performance. A structural reduction of 4.4% was put in place by SB 822 and SB 861 last year that reduced the original 2013-15 Tier 1 / 2 rates from 19.92% to 15.52% and OPSRP from 17.92% to 13.52%.
- Side account savings is tied directly to market performance; the better it performs the greater the reduction. We've seen side account rate savings swing between 6% and 12% over the last eight years.
- Greg has been researching the refinancing of the bonds for Manzanita and Prineville Education Center. The Finance Committee will discuss this at their meeting in November.

## ACTION ITEMS

### Consent Agenda

Jayel noted the reduction in force on the personnel report was a true layoff.

- **Bob Moore moved and Carol Morehead seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried 6-0.**
  - Personnel Changes for October 2014
  - Board Minutes 9-16-14

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

### Board Meeting Time Alternatives

Scott explained the reason to contemplate changing the time/location of our meetings was to consider ways to increase public participation. Ron said he has spoken with community members about the HDESD and about attending meetings. Terry mentioned the Bulletin's Janet Stephens has a heart for special needs programs. John Rexford said he does speak with Janet from time to time when she has questions about the ESD.

John Lang believes the Local Service Plan presentation to each board is our best opportunity to promote the ESD and the good work we are doing. He doesn't think moving the meeting times/locations would address this interest. The consensus was to keep working to make sure our programs are the ones who get the publicity and the credit for the work we do, and ensure the media hears about all of the very good things we are doing.

### Superintendent Report and Legislative Update

- School Fund Task Force Update – He was appointed to this task force by the governor a year ago. In the end, the recommendations were fairly limited. Because this task force was unfunded, it was difficult to get comprehensive data. The Oregon formula does distribute funds on a fairly equal basis, except high cost disability students are only being funded at 40%. The task force recommendation will be to fund those students at 80%. While it was a very political process, Superintendent Rexford found it to be a positive learning experience. He continues to be concerned about the rural poor, because they do not have an advocate. The smaller districts without a large tax base are also of concern.

### Board Chair Report

- Bob highlighted the letter of support to Board Chairs, EI/ECSE Contractors and our K-12 Partners. This letter will be discussed at the Fall Regional OSBA Meeting. We are pushing for at least a 15% increase in funding. Scott complimented John and Bob for getting the support of several key groups including the Oregon Education Association. Diane thanked the Board for continuing to work for support and funding of the EI/ECSE program.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

The regular board meeting recessed to Executive Session at 7:20 pm under ORS 192.660(2) (e) – Real Estate Transactions. Executive Session adjourned to Regular Session at 8:15 pm.

### Adjourn

The October 21, 2014, High Desert Education Service District Board of Directors Meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.

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Scott Reynolds, Board Chair

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Shelley Knutz, Executive Assistant